

## NEW YORK HERALD.

JAMES GORDON BENNETT.  
EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR.

OFFICE N. W. CORNER OF FULTON AND NASSAU STS.

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AMUSEMENTS THIS EVENING.

NIRLO'S GARDEN, Broadway.—LARKS OF KILLARNEY.—YACHTS COURTESY.

BROADWAY THEATRE, Broadway.—THE LATE ISLAND.—FALLS.

WINTER GARDEN, Broadway.—HAWK.

WALLACK'S THEATRE, Broadway.—EVERYBODY'S FRIEND.

OLYMPIA THEATRE, Broadway.—THE STRAITS OF NEW YORK.

NEW BOWERY THEATRE, Bowery.—MARETTA'S GROOMS.—ROBERT'S WIFE.

BOWERY THEATRE, Bowery.—DAN TROT.—MICHAEL RABBIT.

BARNUM'S MUSEUM, Broadway.—TWO MAMMOT PAT WORK.—LIVING SKELETON.—DIAMOND.—LEARNED SHAM.—GIANT BOY.—THIS UNION PRISONER.—DAY AND EVENING.

BRYANT'S MINSTRELS, Mechanics' Hall, 472 Broadway.—STREET SONGS, DANCES, HUMORS, &amp;c.—BILLY PATTERSON.

WOOD'S MINSTREL HALL, 34 Broadway.—STREET SONGS, DANCES, HUMORS, &amp;c.—BILLY PATTERSON.

SALLE DIABOLIQUE, 88 Broadway.—ROBERT HELLER'S LIONESS IN MASC.

DOWDNEY HALL, 88 Broadway.—MR. GEORGE VAN DONDY'S READINGS.

VAN AMBERG &amp; CO'S MAMMOT MENAGERIE, 60 and 61 Broadway.—Open from 10 A. M. to 10 P. M.

HYPNOTICISM, Fourteenth street.—FROST'S GYMNASIUM AND ACROBATIC ENTERTAINMENTS.—HARLEQUIN BROADWAY.

AMERICAN THEATRE, No. 44 Broadway.—BALLETS, FANTASIES, HUMORS, &amp;c.—THE MARY TROTTER.

HOOLEY &amp; CAMPBELL'S MINSTRELS, 109 and 201 Bowery.—SONGS, DANCES, HUMORS, &amp;c.—HIGH DADDT.

NEW YORK JOURNAL OF ANATOMY, 618 Broadway.—Open from 10 A. M. to 10 P. M.

New York, Wednesday, February 1, 1865.

THE SITUATION.

Peace rumors again fill the air. There seems to be good authority for stating that the rebel Vice President Stephens, accompanied by the rebel Senators R. M. T. Hunter and Campbell, came within General Grant's lines on Monday, and were desirous of being permitted to visit Washington in an unofficial capacity, in order to talk matters over. General Grant being absent at the time they were detained until his return yesterday morning, when they received permission to pass through his lines, and are now understood to be on their way to Washington.

From Port Royal we have confirmation of the occupation of Beaufort by a portion of General Sherman's army, the rebels having evacuated the place on the advance of the Union forces, and retreated to Ashep, in the direction of Charleston. A portion of Admiral Porter's fleet had arrived in Charleston harbor.

There is very little of importance from the Army of the Potomac. Despatches report that the enemy are reconstructing the railroad destroyed by the Fifth corps in its raid to Hicokford, but are making slow progress. None of the bridges destroyed had been rebuilt. The large bridge near Walden, North Carolina, was swept away by the late freshet. Major General Warren has returned and resumed command of his corps.

The rebel General Price's old army—the main body of which is reported to be at Fulton, on the Upper Red river—is represented to be in a terribly demoralized condition, suffering from starvation, cold and nakedness. General Fagan's and Parsons' brigades—comprising all the troops of Price's army that have returned to Topeka, from which place the Missouri expedition originally set out—are at Camden, Arkansas. The rebels have an entire division at Grand Ecore, and are fortifying. General Kirby Smith's headquarters are still at Shreveport; but there is no large body of rebel troops there. A division of rebel cavalry has lately been sent to Texas, to be dismounted for infantry service. Two of the fleet of steamers which went up the Arkansas river to Fort Smith were captured and burned by the rebels.

We have further particulars from Key West, Fla., relative to the loss of the United States ship-of-war San Jacinto. She struck on a reef, between Green Turtle Key and No Name Key, early on the morning of the 1st ult., and bilged. The officers and crew, including about forty sick, were all saved and landed on No Name Key. Fifty-one of the crew, however, had deserted. The entire battery of the vessel, together with stores, masts and other portable property, was also saved. At last advices the wreckers were dismantling the San Jacinto, but were not allowed to touch any portion of her machinery.

The United States steamer Alabama has arrived at Hampton Roads from New Inlet, N. C., having on board some prisoners ninety-one of the officers, crews and passengers of the blockade runners Bleisheim, Charlotte and Stag, captured by Admiral Porter's fleet in Cape Fear river.

A letter, received at Roanoke Island, from a gentleman residing in the interior of North Carolina, states that a large number of Union prisoners and citizens, many of whom had been removed from Georgia and South Carolina, are now at Salisbury, N. C., suffering from actual starvation, the number of deaths from that cause alone averaging fifty per day. The writer urges the Union authorities to take immediate steps for their release. Deserter from our own and the rebel armies are wandering about robbing citizens generally of anything they can carry away.

The report of the evacuation of Mobile by the rebels, published in yesterday's Herald, was received from the flagship of the Union squadron off Mobile on the 30th ult.

N. B. Davis, the rebel bearer of despatches from Richmond to Canada, and identified at Newark, Ohio, as bearer of the Andersonville (Ga.) prison, has been sentenced to be hung on Johnson's Island February 17.

The Supervisors' committee, appointed to confer with the State and Washington authorities on the subject of the quota called for from this city, left yesterday for Albany and Washington, for the purpose of conferring with the State Legislature and of presenting a protest against the arithmetic of Provost Marshal General Fry. They will strive to induce the authorities either to reduce the quota or to grant an extension of time. The Provost Marshal has fixed the quota of the different wards of Brooklyn, comprising the Third Congressional district, sixteen hundred and forty-one men are called for.

A meeting of loyal Georgians is to be held at the Cooper Institute on the 15th instant. The call for the meeting states that the signs all the promise that the loyal citizens of that State may soon be permitted to return to their homes and again enjoy the protection of the government of the United States with unmingled pleasure.

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## The Crowning Event of the War—The Constitutional Abolition of Slavery Throughout the United States.

The proceedings in the Congress of the United States were signalized yesterday by one of the most remarkable, important, desirable, decisive and momentous events in the records of this or any other nation of modern or ancient times. We refer to the vote—119 to 56—in the House of Representatives by which the constitutional amendment declaring slavery abolished and forever hereafter interdicted throughout the United States passes from Congress to the final ratification of three-fourths of the thirty-six States belonging to the Union.

The fifth article of the federal constitution provides that "the Congress, whenever two-thirds of both houses shall deem it necessary, shall propose amendments to this constitution, or, on the application of the Legislatures of two-thirds of the several States, shall call a convention for proposing amendments, which, in either case, shall be valid to all intents and purposes, as part of this constitution, when ratified by the legislatures of three-fourths of the several States, or by conventions in three-fourths thereof, as the one or the other mode of ratification may be proposed by Congress." This is the constitution, and that its framers contemplated an amendment abolishing or affecting slavery is apparent from the proviso which immediately follows—that "no amendment which may be made prior to the year 1808 shall in any manner affect" the African slave trade, which, as a compromise with the South Carolina planters and New England slave traders, was authorized by the constitution to be continued down to the year 1808.

Thus the authority and the intention of the constitution are plain; and whether by State conventions or by the State legislatures, we are confident that this amendment will secure the ratification of the three-fourths of all the States required to make it a part of the "supreme law of the land."

The institution of slavery may thus be considered as abolished throughout the United States. The experiment of a Southern confederacy, by war against the Union, and for the protection, perpetuation and expansion of Southern slavery, has destroyed it. Otherwise, by adhering to the Union, the rebellious States, or a large portion of them, might have preserved their "peculiar institution" for a hundred years to come. Now the pressure of this exhausting war has driven the rebel leaders to the dreaded alternative of discussing the proposition of abolishing slavery to save the confederacy. When they thus admit that slavery, the cause of their rebellion, must be abandoned to maintain their confederacy, they are but a step from the abandonment of their confederacy itself, slavery and all.

In this connection, we have some private information from Washington, communicated several days ago, to the effect that the passage of this aforesaid constitutional amendment will be immediately followed by another peace mission to Richmond, or by a committee of peace ambassadors from Richmond, to treat for peace upon the basis of submission to the Union. It is somewhat remarkable, too, that on the very day of the passage of the amendment in question, a peace commission of three or four distinguished men from Richmond should be applying for a passage through our military lines and a permit for a trip to Washington. It has been further intimated to us that Mr. Seward has been exceedingly anxious for the passage of this constitutional amendment as the initial point of a great peace compromise with Jeff. Davis, embracing a reconstruction of the Union.

We are promised the most wonderful developments in this direction, in consequence of the passage of this amendment. Assuming, however, that all such promises rest upon idle speculations, we have still abundant cause for gratification over yesterday's work in Congress. It puts an end to all tinkering abolition experiments at Washington and Richmond; it banishes all doubts as to the fate of African slavery in this country; it settles the slavery question, and removes that stumbling block from American politics, North and South. It cuts off the last pretext for European intervention in behalf of Davis, prepares a solid and enduring platform for the reunion of the loyal and rebellious States, and the enforcement of the Monroe doctrine in an easy alliance with all the independent States of North and South America.

Hence we congratulate the American people, North and South, on the grand success of this great measure in both houses of Congress for the constitutional abolition of slavery through the length and breadth of the land, in every place and forevermore. Congress responds to the will of the people. Let the States now ratify their work.

Louis Napoleon's Mexican Scheme and the "Manifest Destiny" of the Monroe Doctrine.

The Mexican colonization scheme of Louis Napoleon, under Dr. Gwin, late United States Senator from California, is a political movement involving the grandest designs and the most important consequences, not only in reference to the future of Mexico, but touching the settlement of this rebellion and the "manifest destiny" of the Monroe doctrine.

What the Mexican scheme of Louis Napoleon is we are no longer left altogether to conjecture. Our Paris correspondent, in his letter of the 17th ultimo, throws considerable light upon the subject. He says that orders have been sent to Marshal Bazaine to occupy the province of Sonora in the name of France, and to hold it as a pledge till the stipulated indemnity from Maximilian should be paid up; that this means a permanent occupation by France; that the

Emperor has long had his eye upon this rich province; that he was at the bottom of the ill-starred filibustering expedition of Count Reaumont de Boulbon, in 1854, from California; and that Dr. Gwin, while in Paris, had two private interviews with the Emperor, and several with the Duke de Morny, and that without doubt the whole programme was arranged before the Doctor's departure. All this has been substantially confirmed by our late intelligence from San Francisco, of Dr. Gwin's arrival in Sonora, and of his appointment as colonial Governor of that and several other States adjoining it, and of his plans and purposes. Nor can we doubt that Dr. Gwin, as a California Senator at the time, was thoroughly posted in regard to Count Boulbon's expedition, and we dare say that it was from that affair that the Doctor was seized with the idea of achieving some day for himself a more successful adventure in the same direction. His mind and Napoleon's had for years been brooding over this enterprise, so that when these two remarkable men were brought together each discovered that he had found the very man that he wanted.

From these and other facts before us it is apparent that the designs of Napoleon in this grand Mexican colonial enterprise, under Dr. Gwin, comprehend the permanent occupation of the richest mineral regions of Mexico as a colony of France, and the settlement therein of large bodies of adventurers from the United States of Southern proclivities. Nor can we doubt that an invitation from Dr. Gwin, as the captain general or viceroy of France over this new colony, will attract to it thousands of congenial spirits, despairing of Davis and groaning under Lincoln, not only from California, but from Texas, Louisiana, Arkansas, Missouri, and every other State, South and North, between Mexico and the Canada.

We shall not be surprised if, in view of the impending downfall of Davis and his confederacy, we shall hear the news, with the return of spring, that a mighty stream of Southern emigrants, resembling the exodus of the Israelites from